

voice will have some meaningful effect? And the only way to do that is to have some penalty section here. I'm uncomfortable about fining county officials. I suppose the threat of losing their office is enough to make them pause and to have them give a good faith or serious consideration of what's been proposed to them. This doesn't mean that the people can't disagree, it doesn't mean that they can't use language as they choose to express that. But at the same time if you don't have something in here, the county board can file stamp it, say, thank you very much for your petition, and throw it in the trash can. And that sort of behavior is not what we want to promote at this point in time. I think the better policy is that there's some threat in here. Quite frankly, with that language in there, I think you'll see the boards give some attention to them and try to give them some impact. And I think that if you don't do that, you're going to frustrate the people who gave those petitions, and that's not a very good policy because it's going to be difficult for those members to come up to their county board and say, we want to consolidate. And in effect they may be saying, we want less, but we also want to save some money. I think that's a good policy to promote, and at this point in time I would not vote either for the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I hear a lot of puffing and blowing, but it amounts to nothing. I hear Senator Wehrbein say, you got to do something. I hear Senator Warner saying, in his terms the same thing. Then why don't you all mandate that the county board carry out the demands of the petition? That's what I want to ask Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wehrbein, you want to do something, you don't want these county boards just sitting on their duffs, ignoring the public. If you have that kind of confidence in the public and you believe these petitions ought to be circulated, why don't we mandate that the county board carry out what the petition demands? Are you willing to go that far and do that?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Senator Chambers, I would consider that. I hadn't thought about going quite that far. But I do think if we're serious about it that we ought to consider that. I'm not